

### Overview of Summer Learning Programs

[Summer learning programs](#) (SLPs) are designed to provide students with additional opportunities for learning and growing during the summer months. Systems should strive to create opportunities for all students to access a summer learning program.

### Overview of Literacy

Literacy is an essential part of a well-rounded education and should be embedded in a summer learning program. [Louisiana's K-12 Student Standards for English Language Arts](#) focus on three goals:

- Reading,
- Understanding complex, grade-level texts, and
- Expressing understanding of texts through writing and speaking.

### Best Practices and Approach

Literacy connects all learning! With a strong foundation in literacy, students can be successful in other subject areas as well. Guided by the goals of Louisiana's Student Standards, teachers should [approach planning and instruction](#) through:

- Setting and monitoring [literacy goals](#).
- [Explicit, systematic instruction, interventions, and extension activities](#).
- Ongoing [professional growth](#).
- [Engaging families](#) around literacy development.

School systems that decide to offer SLPs to students within its jurisdiction must also offer the same program access and opportunity to participate to students with disabilities, and school systems must be prepared to provide any IEP related modifications or reasonable 504/ADA accommodations.

### Activities

- Local Library Field Trip
  - Students can get library cards and explore their local library and its available resources and activities.
- Poetry in the Park
  - Have students listen to or read favorite poems while enjoying the outdoors. Have a picnic for more fun!
- Literacy Expositions
  - Allow students and their families to engage with texts and tasks across content through presentations and projects, ensuring content from all subject areas is included.
- Student Partnerships
  - Pair students from different grade levels (one higher, one lower) and host student-led and student-focused book clubs.
- Book Bags
  - To foster reading for enjoyment, provide students with books of various genres, levels, and topics along with enriching literacy activities that are not connected to assessments. Dedicate reading time daily or weekly during the SLP.

**Websites and Resources**

- [Reading Rockets](#) is a national public media literacy initiative offering information and resources on how young kids learn to read, why so many struggle, and how caring adults can help.
- [Reading Universe](#), from the [Barksdale Reading Institute](#), is devoted to significantly improving pre-literacy and reading skills.
- [First Book](#) provides low-cost or free books aimed at removing barriers to quality education for all kids.
- [We Need Diverse Books](#) advocates for essential changes in the publishing industry to produce and promote literature that reflects and honors the lives of all young people.
- [Get Ready to Read!](#) is designed to support educators, parents, and young children in the development of early literacy skills in the years before kindergarten

**Community Resources**

- Partnerships with community groups or services to share books and resources
  - Library
  - Family doctor offices
  - Pediatricians
  - Mental health centers
  - Regional organizations
  - Local community groups or organizations
  - Family advocacy groups
  - Reading councils
  - Law enforcement
- Donations of books representing diversity or supporting high-quality curriculum
  - Large companies
  - Churches

**Matrix**

The [Summer Learning Program Matrix](#) provides a snapshot of the cross-curricular connections among projects. This chart will help teachers see integration opportunities when planning for summer learning experiences.